

REMARKSRequest for Reconsideration

Applicants have carefully considered the matters raised by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action but remain of the opinion that patentable subject matter is present. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's position based on the above amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

Specification Amendments

To clear the informality pointed out by the Examiner, Applicants amend the specification by changing "bush" into "bushing" at page 24, 2nd paragraph. Bushing is the right terminology for the part 62, and "bush" was mistaken as a typo.

Claims Status and Claim Amendments

Claims 2-17 are presented for further examination.

Claims 2, and 3 have been amended by adding that there is a first gap formed between the bolt portion and the sleeve, and a second gap formed

between the sleeve and the liner member/bushing.

Claim 4 has been amended by adding that there is a gap formed between the bolt portion and the sleeve.

The support for the gaps is at page 5, lines 5 to 7: "on the basis of the gap formed between the bolt portion and the sleeve, and the gap between the sleeve and the liner member". From Page 24, paragraph 2, line 5 we know that the liner member is a bushing.

Claim 3 has also been amended by changing "bush" into "bushing" to clarify the terminology. The support is at page 24, 2nd paragraph of the specification as amended.

Claims 5, 11, 12, and 13 are amended by changing "the collar" to "a collar". These amendments are simply to remove the informalities. Thus, no new matter has been added by the way of this amendment.

Present Invention

One of the novel aspects of the present invention is that the configuration of the present invention provides a gap between the bolt portion and the sleeve, and a gap between the sleeve and the liner member or

bushing. These gaps make it possible for slight horizontal movements to cancel the force applied from the directions other than the vertical direction. These gaps allow for slight horizontal movements between the seat and the load sensor and provide an accurate vertical measurement of weight.

Rejection under 35 USC 102

Claims 2-17 had been rejected as being anticipated by Miura et al. The examiner took the position that the part 12 of Miura corresponds to the bushing or liner member of the present invention. Applications respectfully disagree.

In Miura, Column 5, Lines 6 to 20 states: "In a second embodiment of the present invention, as shown in FIG. 4, a pair of washers 13 and 14 having cylindrical portions 13a and 14a are placed one on the other in the shape of a nut, and are clamped between nuts 7 and 8, and a strain-generating member holding space 11 is formed on the outer sides of the cylindrical portions 13a and 14a of the washers 13 and 14. Therefore, no tube spacer is used. Moreover, since the clearance formed between the washers 13 and 14 and a strain-generating member 2, that is, the clearance

in the strain-generating member holding space 11, is filled with an anaerobic adhesive 12 which rarely shrinks when being set, the holding position of the strain-generating member 2 will not become displaced, and the starting point of deformation due to the bending of the strain-generating member 2 is stabilized." It is clear that, part 12 is an anaerobic adhesive, which is used to fill the clearance in the strain-generating member holding space 11, so that "the holding position of the strain-generating member 2 will not become displaced".

The above feature of Miura is different from the present invention. The configuration of the present invention provides gaps between the bolt portion and the sleeve, and between the sleeve and the liner member or bushing. These gaps make it possible to allow non-vertical movements. Therefore, the gaps make the holding position of the strain-generating member become **displacable**.

This feature is mentioned on page 4, line 24 to page 5, line 10: "In accordance with a second aspect, the occupant load sensor is fixed to the other of the floor side seat fixing member and the seat side fixing member via the sleeve arranged in the outer periphery of the bolt portion, and the

liner member interposed between the sleeve and the through hole in the other of the floor side seat fixing member and the seat side fixing member.

Accordingly, a slight motion can be allowed between the bolt portion and the other of the floor side seat fixing member and the seat side fixing member to which the bolt portion is fixed, on the basis of the gap formed between the bolt portion and the sleeve, and the gap between the sleeve and the liner member, and it is possible to cancel the force applied from the other directions than the vertical direction. Therefore, the load from the seat side is applied to the sensor in the vertical direction, and it is possible to accurately detect the load."

The gaps allowing a slight motion (or displacement) are clearly distinguished from that of Miura. Even if the anaerobic adhesive 12 can be considered as a liner/bushing, it holds the position of the strain-generating member 2 **undisplacable**, and makes the starting point of deformation due to the bending of the strain-generating member 2 "**stabled**". Hence it is clear that the anaerobic adhesive 12 can not forms gaps between the sleeve and the liner member and can not allow a slight motion.

Therefore the claims 2, 3, and 4 as currently amended, reciting an

element of a gap or gaps between the bolt portion and sleeve, and between sleeve and the through hole is not disclosed in Miura, and claims 2, 3 and their dependent claims 5, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 can not be anticipated by Miura.

The applicants noticed that, in the outstanding office action, the examiner did not discuss and give the basis of the rejection on claims 7-8, and their dependent claims 9-10. The applicants believe that the reason is the feature claimed in claims 7-8 reciting an element of "a plurality of screw holes provided in said flange portion" is not disclosed in Miura. Therefore, an explicit allowance on claims 7-8, and their dependent claims 9-10, 11 and 17 is requested.

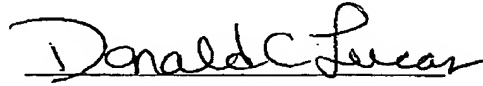
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the Application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. Should any extensions of time or fees be necessary in order to maintain this Application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to debit account # 02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,

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